

1 June 1969

EAGLE

DUSTOFF

Platoon Leader: Major Thomas W. Murphy
Platoon Sergeant: SFC Thomas L. Ross

Air Ambulance Platoon
326th Medical Battalion
101st Airborne Division

Uncle Sam needs
you as a radio operator
in today's
Action Army!
Radio
operators get by
that off-limits tag
for all
members of
the 101st. They
get
to go places—
fun, exciting places.
Adventure!
Travel!
Excitement!
Fresh air!
For example, our
radio operators now get
to stay at a new
relay station
at Eagle's
Nest,
high above the
Big Valley, close
to Disneyland,
where the
view is great,
the fresh air
exhilarating, and
where harassment is
a dirty word.
Sounds Good?
Sounds great!
Be the first to
sign up. Sign
up today.
Uncle Sam needs you!



VHPA132

If you're lucky, you only get short once—if you're not lucky, well, maybe you get the pleasure of serving two tours of duty here and thereby have the added distinction of getting short twice (whoopie!).

To get back to the point, getting short is the most pleasurable feeling in the world. In fact, it is rather easy to get carried away in ecstasy and become rather obnoxious to those around you who scorn your taunts of "Short" (shouted at all times of the day and night, in the shower, at the mess hall, both exuberantly and quietly, whenever deemed appropriate, which is to say, almost every time you open your mouth). This has a tendency to shorten your life span considerably if the short party is not careful in his last days present.

And memories, pleasant memories, dance in the mind, packing up the past in a suitcase and sending it with you wherever you go. At times like these you remember the funny, the odd occurrences:

Like the time just after a Red Alert, not a particularly terrifying one, but still very upsetting, when you hear a group of guys gathered in a single room across the street from you breaking down their tensions. Suddenly a song bursts forth—"We gotta get outa this place, if it's the last thing we ever do!"

Or you picture Joe, the S— burner, humble Joe, whose sanitation wizardry leaves you breathless, the time he was given a bag of marshmallows to toast. Ah, did he pick a great place to toast them! Nothing like combining work and pleasure.

Perhaps you remember the time the radio operators got tired of having plain old water in their cooler and decided to make lemonade. They neglected, however, to clean out the innards before putting in the lemonade. No sweat though; the rather acid-like lemonade did a nice job of cleaning those pipes.

Maybe it's a frustrating incident—maybe a happy one; maybe the very sad Christmas time or some other special day you had to spend alone—whatever pops into your mind, you are glad it's almost over, and the coming year won't be like the past.

MONTHLY STATISTICS

Patients Evacuated:

| | |
|----------|------|
| US | 1199 |
| VN Civ | 140 |
| MED CAP | 2 |
| ARVN | 65 |
| POW/SUSP | 10 |
| CANINE | 0 |
| OTHER | 0 |
| TOTAL | 1416 |

DAY/NIGHT PATIENTS:

| | |
|-------|------|
| Day | 1242 |
| Night | 174 |

MISSIONS:

| | |
|-------|-----|
| Day | 697 |
| Night | 80 |
| | 777 |

HCIST UTILIZATION:

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Missions | 88 |
| Patients | 188 |
| Hours | 110 |

FLIGHT TIME:

| | |
|-------|-----|
| Day | 612 |
| Night | 65 |
| TOTAL | 676 |

AVG NO AVIATORS PSMT FOR DUTY 22

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| HIGH TIME | 101 |
| LOW TIME | 3 |
| AVERAGE | 60 |

ACFT COMBAT DAMAGE 4

On the 6th, Special Forces Team B-52 Project Delta of the 5th Special Forces Group Airborne paid a surprise visit to Eagle Dustoff and presented the unit with a plaque for outstanding support while the SF group was in the area.

* * *

Major Robert R. Cloke, Platoon Leader, left for an assignment to the Career Course at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, after a 30 day leave. We wish him well.

* * *

SP5 Kenneth Ramsey, medic, was reassigned to Granite City Army Depot, to report there after an emergency leave.

* * *

SP5 Larry Wagoner left for the States on an emergency leave.

PSG Lowell Bell left for a special leave in the states following an extension to serve with this unit.

* * *

1LT Gerald Torba and SP4 Martin Hammett are in Japan awaiting transfer to hospitals stateside due to injuries received while flying.

* * *

This month brought several new faces: Major Thomas W. Murphy, Platoon Leader, from Fort Rucker, Alabama

1LT Roy J. Leatherberry, pilot

WO1 Dallas McKee, pilot

SP5 Gary Bryant, medic, from 158th Assault Helicopter Battalion.

SP4 Philip A. Gibson, crew chief, from 5th Trans.

SP4 Park R. Hancocks, crew chief, from 5th Trans.

SP4 Lee Leland, medic, from 82nd Airborne Division.

SP4 Robert H. Paul, crew chief, from the states.

* * *

Several people took a short vacation during May, with an R&R or leave:

CW2 Irvin Reid--Tokyo

CW2 Max E. Tucker--Tokyo

WO1 John Blessing--Hawaii

WO1 Francis Hichens--Hawaii

SFC Thomas L. Ross--Tokyo

SSC Keith Forrester--Hawaii

SP5 James Johnson--Hong Kong

SP5 Karl White--Hong Kong

SP4 Thomas E. Collins--Tokyo

AWARDS

SILVER STAR

1LT Gerald M. Torba

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

CPT Charles H. Lewis

CW2 Michael L. McKenna

CW2 Irvin C. Reid

SP5 Stephen P. Babich

SP5 Michael A. Thoroughgood

SP4 Gary D. Runge

BRONZE STAR

SGT Gareth E. Brookhart

SP5 Lawrence Harris, Jr.

AIR MEDAL "V"

CPT Charles H. Lewis

SFC Thomas L. Ross

AIR MEDAL

| | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| 35-38th OLC | MAJ Robert R. Cloke |
| 15-25th OLC | CPT Robert D. Sawyer |
| 14-15th OLC | CW2 William T. Dillard |
| 1-14th OLC | CW2 Max E. Tucker |
| BAM, 1-7th OLC | SP5 Michael P. McLane |
| 1-5th OLC | SFC Thomas L. Ross |
| 2-3rd OLC | PFC Richard G. Runion |
| 1st OLC | SP4 Stephen B. Francis |
| BAM | 1LT Jerry T. Lee |
| BAM | WO1 Jose R. Villarta |
| BAM | SGT David H. Pritt |
| BAM | SP5 Lawrence Harris |
| BAM | SP5 Fritz C. Persijn |
| BAM | SP4 James R. Walters |

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

2nd OLC SFC Thomas L. Ross

1st OLC MAJ Robert R. Cloke

ARCOM SP4 Thomas E. Collins

A FEW WORDS FROM DUSTOFF 96

Having only been in country for approximately two weeks, I'm really still in the process of getting oriented to both the terrain and the position.

I had an opportunity to see the former Dustoff 96 in Bien Hoa as he was passing South and I was heading North. Major Bob Cloke and I served together at Fort Rucker prior to his assignment to RVN.

I requested this assignment eight months ago and I'm looking forward to commanding this fine unit during the next year.

One new innovation we hope to put to use in the near future is the utilization of the OH-6 Cayuse helicopter to cut down the number of hoist missions. This smaller helicopter can evacuate patients in hover holes where use of the Huey would be impossible save for a hoist mission. The Huey can then backhaul patients from the LZ where the OH-6 takes them.

My best wishes to all former and present Eagle Dustoff men and their families.

EAGLE DUSTOFF

is a monthly publication of the Air Ambulance Platoon, 326th Medical Bn

EDITOR: SP5 Karl White

CARTOONIST: SP5 Brian Fox

With the departure of CPT Robert L. Mock, Battalion Maintenance Officer, a reorganization of our maintenance has now been put into effect, with aviation maintenance now working directly under the Air Ambulance Platoon. CPT William Smith is the new Bn Maint Off and serves in an advisory capacity concerning aviation maintenance as well as test pilot duties. CW3 William Brightwell heads aviation maintenance.

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Congratulations are in order for— SGT David M. Pritt and bride, former Carroll H. Darden. While home on very special leave, SGT Pritt was married on Mother's Day.

With a deep feeling of regret we report that on 13 May 1969 an Eagle Dustoff ship crashed after receiving enemy fire while pulling a hoist mission. 1LT Gerald M. Torba, who was Ac, was wounded and has been medically evacuated to Japan on his way home. The other three crewmembers, 1LT Jerry T. Lee, SP4 James A. Margro and SP4 James R. Walters, are Missing In Action.

For his heroism above and beyond the call of duty, 1LT Torba was presented a Silver Star. Similar awards are being processed for the other crew members.